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To: 'Microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
Date: 12/14/01 5:25pm
Subject: Proposed Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern:

I would like to express my deep reservations and concerns about the proposed settlement of the Microsoft case.

First of all, Microsoft was indeed found guilty of violating the Sherman Anti-Trust act. Having worked with their products in a corporate setting for nearly two decades, I can personally attest to the damage their unfair tactics have caused the marketplace. The most notable would be the destruction of competition by buying out competing products, killing innovation by promising the same function in some future release of their operating system, or the maintenance of a monopoly (through onerous licensing practices) that is based on products that fail to meet necessary standards for security and stability. Having looked at the proposed settlement, I cannot see how the settlement addresses any of the CAUSES of the problem, or incents Microsoft in any way to change their behavior in the future. Quite the contrary, the settlement is almost a kiss and an apology to Microsoft for "all their trouble with this annoying lawsuit." This does not appear to me to be in the public interest.

Secondly, I would like to suggest that this case and its consequences are of historic proportions. In my job I have spent many hours trouble-shooting instabilities in Microsoft's operating systems, fighting viruses that were virtually "invited" into the systems by their poor design decisions, and developing work-around's to the systems' limitations. All the while my choices have been limited by the unethical tactics of Microsoft. The future of our nation may well depend upon our ability to establish public control of, or at least influence over, the technological foundations of our economy. We cannot afford to "hand over the keys" to a company that has shown that it can't be trusted. I see no sign of remorse or any intention to behave differently in the future on the part of the defendant. Therefore, they should not be "set free."

Respectfully Submitted,

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